

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01672 201336Z

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: TRAVELS AND CONCERNS OF GUYANESE MARXISTS

REF: GEORGETOWN 1627

SUMMARY: SEVERAL PROMINENT GUYANESE LEFTISTS ARE CURRENTLY TRAVELING IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THESE INCLUDE DR. CHEDDI JAGAN OF THE PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP), DR. CLIVE THOMAS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (WPA), MACCIE HAMID, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PPP-DOMINATED GUYANA AGRICULTURAL AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION (GAWU), AND LALLBACHAN LALLBAHADUR, SENIOR COUNSELLOR OF THE PPP. JAGAN IS IN MOSCOW, AND THOMAS REPORTEDLY TRAVELED FIRST TO HELSINKI TO ADDRESS A SEMINAR, AND WILL TRAVEL TO MOSCOW ON AUGUST 20. HAMID AND CHAND TRAVELED TOGETHER, OSTENSIBLY TO CUBA, BUT REPORTEDLY THEIR REAL DESTINATION IS EAST GERMANY. THOMAS' PAPER, A SCHOLARLY WORK ON THE "NON-CAPITALIST" PATH TO SOCIALISM, IS AN INDICTMENT OF REGIMES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH WRAP THEMSELVES IN THE MANTEL OF SOCIALISM BUT IN FACT ARE NOT REALLY SOCIALIST. ALTHOUGH THE GOG IS NOT NAMED SPECIFICALLY, CLEARLY IT IS THE TARGET OF THOMAS' CRITICISM. JAGAN AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE

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PAGE 02 GEORGE 01672 201336Z

OTHER DOCTRINAIRE LEFTIST GROUPS HERE HAVE BECOME AWARE OF THE

DANGERS FOR THEIR ORGANIZATIONS' SURVIVAL INHERENT IN THE PPP'S POLICY OF GIVING "CRITICAL SUPPORT" TO THE GOG AND ARE INCREASINGLY ARGUING THAT WHAT BURNHAM IS IMPOSING ON GUYANA IS AN AUTHORITARIAN STATISM RATHER THAN PROLETARIAN SOCIALISM. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. CHEDDI JAGAN, LEADER OF THE PPP, TRAVELED TO THE SOVIET UNION AUGUST 12. REPORTEDLY THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP IS TO DISCUSS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PPP AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION. EMBASSY SOURCE CLAIMS JAGAN WILL MEET IN MOSCOW WITH BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST LEADER, LUIS CARLOS PRESTES, AND THE TWO WILL ISSUE A JOINT DECLARATION WHICH WILL "DISTURB" THE GUYANESE AND BRAZILIAN GOVTs. THE GOG INFORMATION SERVICE WEEKLY REPORT OF AUGUST 13 TOOK NOTE OF JAGAN'S TRAVEL TO THE USSR, AND SOMEWHAT SARCASTICALLY ASSERTED HE WOULD "DISCUSS MATTERS OF INTEREST RELATING TO THE CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIS PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY AND THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA". THE GOG REPORT REMINDED ITS READERS THAT JAGAN IN 1969 HAD DECLARED HIS PARTY "AS PART AND PARCEL OF WORLD COMMUNISM UNDER SOVIET LEADERSHIP," THUS UNDERLINING JAGAN'S ROLE AS A PLIANT TOOL OF THE SOVIETS.

2. ANOTHER OF BURNHAM'S LEFTIST OPPONENTS, DR. CLIVE THOMAS OF THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA AND

A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION WORKING PEOPLES ALLIANCE (WPA), DEPARTED LAST WEEK FOR A VISIT TO HELSINKI AND MOSCOW. IN HELSINKI, HE WAS TO ADDRESS THE AUGUST 16-19 JOINT SEMINAR OF THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, AFRICAN INSTITUTE, FINNISH INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, AND SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES. REPORTEDLY HE WILL PROCEED TO MOSCOW ON AUGUST 20. THOMAS' ADDRESS, A 30-PAGE SCHOLARLY PAPER TITLED "CLASS STRUGGLE, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE THEORY OF THE NON-CAPITALIST PATH", WHILE NOT SINGLING OUT THE GUYANESE GOVT SPECIFICALLY, SEVERELY CRITICIZED FROM A MARXIST VIEWPOINT THE POLICIES OF UNNAMED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THAT THEY DO NOT CHANGE THE "SOCIAL RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION" (I.E. THE WORKERS' ROLE) AFTER NATIONALIZING FOREIGN FIRMS AND DO NOT PERMIT DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS. (COPY POUCHED TO ARA/CAR MR. TUMMINIA.)

3. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, THOMAS FEARED THAT BURNHAM WOULD EITHER
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PAGE 03 GEORGE 01672 201336Z

PREVENT HIS DEPARTURE OR ORDER THAT HIS PAPER BE CONFISCATED. TO PREVENT THE LATTER, THOMAS GAVE COPIES TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WHO AGREED TO SEND IT VIA DIPLOMATIC POUCH FOR DELIVERY TO THOMAS IN HELSINKI. THE PRECAUTIONS PROVED UNNECESSARY AS APPARENTLY NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO PREVENT THOMAS' DEPARTURE OR TO CONFISCATE HIS PAPER.

4. PPP OFFICIALS MACCIE HAMID AND LALLBACHAN LALLABAHAHADUR ALSO

TOOK PRECAUTIONS CONCERNING THEIR TRAVEL ON AUGUST 18. THEY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO CUBA, WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCE, THEIR TRUE DESTINATION WAS THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. THEY REPORTEDLY FEARED THAT IF THE GOG WERE AWARE OF THEIR TRUE DESTINATION, IT WOULD HAVE PREVENTED THEIR TRAVEL.

5. COMMENT: JAGAN AND OTHER GUYANESE LEFTISTS, SUCH AS THOMAS, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN GUYANA. THEY PERCEIVE THAT BURNHAM IS CONSTRUCTING AN AUTHORITARIAN SYSTEM OF "STATE CAPITALISM" RATHER THAN PROLETARIAN SOCIALISM. THEY ARE WORRIED LEST THE SOVIET UNION DECIDE TO CUT OUT MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE "TRUE" LEFTISTS AND PROVIDE INSTEAD SUPPORT TO BURNHAM'S GOVT. JAGAN'S CONCERN IS REFLECTED IN HIS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PPP (BEING REPORTED SPEARATELY). OTHER SIGNS OF THE DOCTRINAIRE LEFT'S CONCERN ARE EVIDENT IN THOMAS' PAPER, THE PRECAUTIONS THEY FEEL MUST SURROUND THEIR TRAVEL AN ACTIVITIES AND OTHER SIGNS OF FRICTION BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE PPP.

6. JAGAN AND THOMAS WOULD LIKE TO EXPOSE AS FAKE THE GOG'S PRETENSIONS OF BEING A SOCIALIST GOVT. ALSO JAGAN IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM WITHIN HIS PPP TO SPEAK OUT STRONGLY AGAINST THE PNC-CONTROLLED GOVT'S POLICIES. THE JITTERY BEHAVIOR OF GUYANESE MARXISTS CONTRASTS WITH THE SEEMING EQUANIMITY OF BURNHAM AND HIS ASSOCIATES-- DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND SEVERAL OTHER PNC LEADERS, INCLUDING MINISTERS HUBERT JACK, FRED WILLS, STEVE NARAIN (ALL AT COLOMBO NASC) AND PRESIDENT CHUNG (IN BARBADOS) ALL HAVE BEEN TRAVELING ABROAD DURING THE PAST WEEK.

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